(b) As per the information furnished by NAFED a total expenditure of Rs. 1.61 crores was involved for the import of onions so far.

Attracting investment for upgrading facilities in foodgrains storage

650. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to adopt a policy to attract investment from domestic and foreign companies in upgrading facilities for storage and handling of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) A steering Committee was constituted by the Government in the Deptt, of Food & Civil Supplies, M/o Food & Consumer Affairs to examine the question ofupgradation of technology particularly for bulk storage and bulk handling and transportation of foodgrains in India. The Committee has since submitted its report. The recommendations given by the Committe are under consideration of a Task Force set up for purpose.

Meeting of the Central Committee for Food Standard

651. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meetings of the Central Committee for Food Standards constituted under the Act, are held regularly;

(b) what are the observations of the Committee regarding deficiencies in enforcement; and

(c) the proposed in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

The Central Committee for Food Standards has observed on many occasions the deficiencies in enforcement of the P.FA. Act both at Centre and State level and suggested strengthening the infrastructure for effective implementation of the P.F.A. Act, 1954.

(c) (i) The Central Assistance is being given to States/UTs to strengthen their food testing labs. With equipments under a Centrally sponsored Scheme since 1990-91.

(ii) Equipments are also being supplied out of W.H.O. funds to State Food Labs.

(iii) The proposal to strengthen PFA Division in Directorate General of Health Services in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare with fulfledged secretariat of C.C.F.S. has been processed.

(iv) Under the Public Health Capacity Building Project for seeking World Bank assistance a proposal for strengthening of PFA Infrastructure both at Central and State levels is being formulated.

(v) Orientation training to Food Inspectors, Public Analysts, Senior level officers and consumer Organisation organised from time to time.

एक आवश्यक वस्तु के तौर पर चाय

652. **श्री रामजीलाल :** क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 28 अगस्त, 1998 के "नवभारत टाइम्स" में चाय को आवश्यक वस्तुओं की सूची से हटाने की सिफारिश शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि देश में 90 प्रतिशत से अधिक लोग चाय का प्रयोग करते हैं और इस आधार पर इसे आवश्यक वस्तुओं की सूची में डाला गया था; और

(घ) सरकार आम आदमी द्वारा प्रयोग की जाने वाली चाय की कीमतों पर किस प्रकार नियंत्रण करेगी ?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव) : (क) जी, हां।